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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/609,126	06/27/2003	Uwe Krueger	34874-162 UTIL	6692
64280	7590	03/25/2008	EXAMINER	
MINTZ, LEVIN, COHN, FERRIS, GLOVSKY & POPEO, P.C.			KANG, INSUN	
ATTN: PATENT INTAKE CUSTOMER NO. 64280			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ONE FINANCIAL CENTER			2193	
BOSTON, MA 02111				
		MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE
		03/25/2008		PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/609,126	KRUEGER, UWE	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	INSUN KANG	2193	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 December 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,4-9 and 12-16 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1, 4-9, and 12-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	<input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responding to amendment filed on 12/21/2007.
2. As per applicant's request, claims 15 and 16 have been amended. Claims 1, 4-9, and 12-16 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 4-9, and 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Huang et al. ("A General Purpose Virtual Collaboration Room," IEEE, pages 1-10, 10/1999) hereafter "Huang."

Per claim 1:

Huang discloses:

- a virtual object space providing access to a plurality of objects, each object having a set of functionality and being identifiable by a unique identifier provided by the virtual object space (i.e. page 2, right col., paragraph 2) and providing generic object functionality for the plurality of objects (i.e. page 2, right col., paragraph 1) including an associations and transactions functionality for relating objects and interaction between objects (i.e. page 3, section 2. An overview of the VCR, first paragraph, lines 1-7; page 2, right col., paragraph 2); a distribution functionality for locking, flushing, and copying of the virtual object space (i.e. page

9, left col., lines 1-20) ; and persistency functionality for maintaining persistency of the objects (i.e. page 5, right col., section 3.2 Object manipulation, paragraph 4); and a visualization framework for visualizing the plurality of objects independently of an application implementing the object, each object being visualized using the object's unique identifier and according to the object's corresponding set of functionality (i.e. Fig. 1; page 6, right col., second paragraph).

Per claim 4:

The rejection of claim 1 is incorporated, and further, Huang teaches:

-framework services providing common event handling of the plurality of objects(i.e. page 5, left col., lines 19-22).

Per claim 5:

Huang discloses:

- a virtual object space providing access to a plurality of objects, each object being identifiable by a unique identifier, providing generic object functionality for the plurality of objects(i.e. page 2, right col., paragraph 2) including an associations and transactions functionality for relating objects and interaction between objects (i.e. page 3, section 2. An overview of the VCR, first paragraph, lines 1-7; page 2, right col., paragraph 2); a distribution functionality for locking, flushing, and copying of the virtual object space (i.e. page 9, left col., lines 1-20); and persistency functionality for maintaining persistency of the objects (i.e. page 5, right col., section 3.2 Object manipulation, paragraph 4); a user interface for receiving input from

a user relating to a desired arrangement of one or more of the plurality of objects ((i.e. Fig. 1; page 3, left col., section 2. An Overview of the VCR, first paragraph; lines 11-13). and a visualization framework for visualizing objects according to the desired arrangement, each object being visualized using the object's unique identifier independently of an application implementing the object (i.e. Fig. 1; page 6, right col., second paragraph).

Per claim 6:

Huang further teaches:

- wherein the user interface further includes allowing a user to browse the ;plurality of objects independent of one or more applications implementing the objects (i.e. Fig. 1; page 3, left col., second paragraph, lines 1-6).

Per claim 7:

The rejection of claim 5 is incorporated, and further, Huang teaches:

- the desired arrangement is hierarchical(i.e. page 3, section 2. An overview of the VCR, first paragraph, lines 9-11).

Per claim 8:

The rejection of claim 5 is incorporated, and further, Huang teaches:

- the visualization framework includes an object viewer(i.e. page 4, paragraph 2, lines 1-5, 13-19);

Per claim 13:

The rejection of claim 1 is incorporated, and further, Huang teaches:

- providing a portlet to access the generic object functionality to visualize the structure of the plurality of objects(i.e. Fig 1 in page 4).

Per claim 15:

Huang further discloses:

- implementing the plurality of objects to include a first interface accessible by the framework and a second interface accessible by a service acting as an adapter between the framework and an application separate from the framework (i.e. page 9, right col., lines 1-11; page 10; left col., 21-30).

Per claims 9, 12, 14, and 16, they are the method versions of claims 1, 4, 13, and 15 respectively, and are rejected for the same reasons set forth in connection with the rejection of claims 1, 4, 13, and 15 above.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 12/21/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant states that 1)Huang fails to disclose a virtual object space...a distribution functionality for locking, flushing, and copying of the virtual object space.

In response, Huang discloses a virtual collaboration room in a virtual object space at a user interface level. Huang's virtual collaboration room integrated with a web browser is "an

Internet based desktop groupware system that enables a group of remote individuals to flexibly and naturally conduct their collaborative...working without constraints on collaboration types...system platforms (abstract, page 2; see fig.1 and 5).” When the shared objects in the VCR are accessed by clients, memory copies for the same object space of the VCR are used for different clients (in different address spaces) (page 9, left col. second paragraph). The virtual collaboration room framework handles the object memory synchronization for the memory copies (copying, locking and flushing). The VCR framework recreates (thereby copy) the VCR client application workspace for each client that wants to access to the room. The VCR framework also controls access to shared objects (thereby locking and controls deletion of copies) by clients via the coordinator and other assistants in the VCR server (see Fig. 5; “when a user exits the room, the client program exits from the user machine and the related assistant is accordingly removed from the room server,” page 9, first par.).

The applicant states that 2) Hung does not disclose the plurality of objects including a first interface and a second interface.

In response, Huang discloses a virtual collaboration room at a user interface level. The virtual objects in the virtual collaboration room such as chat, video, audio etc in the object cabinet are communicated through an interface (see fig. 5, which shows the object interface in the room). The virtual collaboration room can be accessible through a web browser (interface) by other client program (see fig. 5, page 9 paragraphs 2-3).

Conclusion

6. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to INSUN KANG whose telephone number is (571)272-3724. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lewis A. Bullock, Jr. can be reached on 571-272-3759. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from

a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Insun Kang/
Examiner, Art Unit 2193

/Lewis A. Bullock, Jr./
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2193